

Jim Doyle, Governor
Maj. Gen. Albert Wilkening
The Adjutant General
Ed Gleason, Administrator

Vol. 12, No. 4 July/August 2003



WEM DIGEST

Issues and Events for Wisconsin's Emergency Management Community

Storms threatened state —so far minor damage

By Jeff Last

NWS Meteorologist—Green Bay

Cooler temperatures this summer have helped keep severe weather from striking the Badger State.

So far, 14 tornadoes have been confirmed in Wisconsin in 2003. The state yearly average is 21 tornadoes.

However, June 8 was a different story, as strong thunderstorms developed across central and east-central Wisconsin. Five weak tornadoes developed. Three of the tornadoes affected Winnebago County and Lake Winnebago but did not produce damage. Minor damage was reported from a tornado that hit the Marshfield area.

The tornadoes (waterspouts) on Lake Winnebago were seen by many people. A fishing tournament was in progress on the southern part of the lake when the waterspouts appeared. One person said he saw as many as five to seven funnels or waterspouts over the lake during the afternoon.

Slow moving thunderstorms with very heavy rain produced urban and flash flooding across part of east-central Wisconsin during the evening of July 30. The late afternoon and early evening storms produced isolated large hail and thunderstorms that dumped 5 to 7 inches of rain in some areas.

The highest measured rainfall was 6.50 inches in Darboy in



A truck is stuck in a flooded street in Menasha following torrential rains on July 30. Photo by Dr. Jim Brey

Calumet County. Some homeowners in the area reported basement flooding.

The concern now is directed towards lack of rain. Hot, humid weather the last few

weeks have caused drought-like conditions over much of southwest Wisconsin. The lack of rain is worrying farmers about the impact on crops.



A picture of the Lake Winnebago Tornado (waterspout), taken by Troy Peterson, as he was fishing on the lake.

Weather Trivia: *A tornado or waterspout?*

So what is the difference between a tornado and a waterspout?

A waterspout is a tornado over water and is no less dangerous than a tornado on land. The difference lies not where the tornado forms, but with the type of thunderstorm that produces the twister.

Some tornadoes form from large thunderstorms known as "supercells." These tornadoes are usually the more violent type, causing extensive or extreme damage.

Other twisters form from ordinary thunderstorms, and when on land, are sometimes referred to as "landspouts." The tornadoes that formed on June 8 were from small thunderstorms and not the type that typically cause severe damage. Nonetheless, anything in their path could sustain some damage.

All tornadoes are dangerous. If the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning for your area, assume threatening weather is approaching and seek shelter.

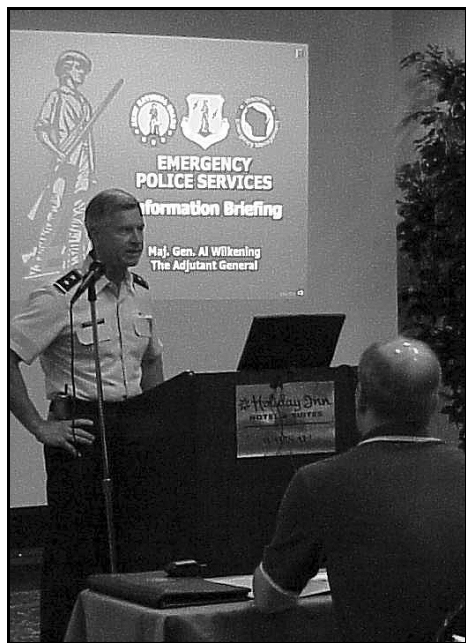
Not making changes can be good

FEMA to remain FEMA

Earlier this month, the Under Secretary of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Michael Brown, announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency would retain their name and the acronym FEMA. They say what's in a name? I would suggest a lot. This name in many respects gives sound credibility to the emergency management profession.

Over the past decade, FEMA has worked hard to make a difference and earn a reputation as a good partner with the states. A name change to Emergency Preparedness and Response would do little to portray FEMA's past successes and its future potential. I would suggest that retaining the FEMA name, a well-recognized trademark of demonstrated competence over the past decade, would be good for the emergency management profession and go a long way in readily reminding people of the value of the work emergency managers do.

FEMA has been a good partner and our recently completed report on 2002,



Major General Al Wilkening provided an overview of National Guard resources at the EPS meetings.

illustrates how vital that partnership has been. We have had 16 federally declared disasters in Wisconsin since 1990 and in the last 13 years, all but one of Wisconsin's 72 counties, Oconto, have been directly affected by disaster declarations. After a disaster, the morale is raised in a community when the word is out that FEMA will be arriving soon to assist in the recovery process. We have appreciated the federal disaster assistance in the past and I am glad that FEMA, as "FEMA", will be there to help in the future.

Emergency Police Services

During July, WEM completed seven regional Emergency Police Services (EPS) workshops. It was a good opportunity to bring together law enforcement from throughout the respective regions to discuss the role and missions of the National Guard, issues confronting emergency management, FBI's review of threats to our state, value that the State Patrol offers local law enforcement, Division of Criminal Investigation reorganization, and the efforts by the Office of Justice Assistance to get equipment dollars to our first responders.

Emergency Police Services, which is a component of Wisconsin Emergency Management, is a proven success in coordinating mutual aid during an emergency, from a tornado in Ladysmith to enforcing treaty rights during the spear fishing controversy nearly a decade ago. Thanks to all those who attended and for those volunteering to head the Emergency Police Services in their respective regions. A complete listing of the EPS Directors can be found on page 5 of this Digest.

Conclusion

The summer has been a glorious one for the most part and I certainly appreciate the kindness displayed by Mother Nature. We know that this can



Ed Gleason
WEM Administrator

change with the next storm, but in the interim, we remain grateful, yet ready.

The summer will conclude with an enormous gathering of Harley riders in southeastern Wisconsin over Labor Day weekend to celebrate Harley-Davidson's 100 years. This will certainly tax the public safety community and planning has been ongoing in a number of southeastern counties to ensure they are ready. With the planning in place, the event should be a wonderful celebration of Wisconsin.

Until next time, stay vigilant and safe!

A handwritten signature of Ed Gleason.

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<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>

Governor orders review of power after blackout

Following one of the worst ever blackouts in the nation, Governor Jim Doyle has asked the Public Service Commission to examine the power outage events, their impacts on Wisconsin and report back to him on the lessons learned from this event.

"The blackout on the East Coast reminds us all about the integral role electricity plays in our daily lives," said Gov. Jim Doyle. "The good news is that Wisconsin's electric transmission system is stable. But the events highlight the importance of making sure Wisconsin does everything possible to maintain a reliable electric transmission system."

Nearly 50 million people lost power in eight states and parts of Canada on August 14 when transmission lines from Michigan to New York failed.

In response to the simultaneous blackout in the U.S. and Canada, several states activated their emergency operations centers. Two states impacted by the blackouts were Michigan and Ohio which are part of FEMA Region V, the region that also includes Wisconsin.

In Michigan, the Governor signed an emergency proclamation to activate the Emergency Management Division

(EMD) of the Michigan State Police which created a central command structure to coordinate the activities of state agencies and to marshal all available resources, including any necessary federal resources.

In Ohio, a state fire department mutual aid plan was activated for the first time. Ohio Fire Chiefs Emergency Response Plan divides the state into eight districts to permit closer coordination. When a request came for additional water tankers in Cleveland, the plan was implemented and 34 tankers from eight counties were called in to provide help.

Workshop for hazard mitigation

Many changes are underway in Hazard Mitigation. That is why Wisconsin Emergency Management plans to host an All-Hazards Mitigation Planning Workshop on September 30 in Madison.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued new requirements regarding awarding hazard mitigation funds. WEM staff will provide guidance and resource information to local governments and tribal organizations in the development of a local hazard mitigation plan. Communities must have a federally approved all-hazards plan to be eligible to receive future mitigation funding.

The workshop will be held at the State Emergency Operations Center, 2400 Wright Street in Madison. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. and

should finish by 3:30 p.m. For more information and registration, contact Roxanne Gray at 608-242-3211 or Susan Boldt at 608-242-3214.

In addition, FEMA has completed the fifth How-To-Guide on mitigation planning. "Bring the Plan to Life: Implementing the Hazard Mitigation Plan" (FEMA 386-4) is now available from the FEMA publication warehouse and will be soon be posted on the FEMA website.

The new guide contains steps on implementing an all-hazards mitigation plan, evaluating its effectiveness, and revising the plan.

To obtain a copy of the new guide, it can be downloaded at www.fema.gov or by ordering a copy through the FEMA Publication Warehouse at 1-800-480-2520.



Providing Support to Counties

There are some new Wisconsin Emergency Management staff members working around the state. WEM has hired six temporary employees to help with the state and local assessment process that is underway.

As part of the 2003 State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy Process, states and local governments need to update their security threat assessment data to reflect post-September 11, 2001. The new assessment is also designed to identify progress on priorities outlined in initial homeland security strategies and serve as a planning tool for local and state governments, and will assist in the allocation of federal resources for homeland security.

From the front left are Heather Sonsalla, Ed Sheppard, Tom Deans and Terry Lelm. Back row are Bob Randolph and Kent Conklin.

Wisconsin Emergency Police Services



When a tornado tears through a community, a disturbance occurs at a prison, or for that matter any other situation that overwhelms local law

enforcement, Wisconsin's Emergency Police Services (EPS) Program is there to help. The EPS Program provides law enforcement support and coordination of mutual aid in times of crisis.

The EPS program dates back to 1961, when President Kennedy ordered states and the federal government to update emergency plans and procedures to respond to a national crisis as there was a looming threat of nuclear war. As part of the Civil Defense Initiative, the Emergency Police Services Program was created.

The federal guidance was specific, the EPS program coordinator would be involved in wartime planning and natural disaster support functions only. The program emphasized training auxiliary police to assist local law enforcement in the event of a nuclear war or other major catastrophes.

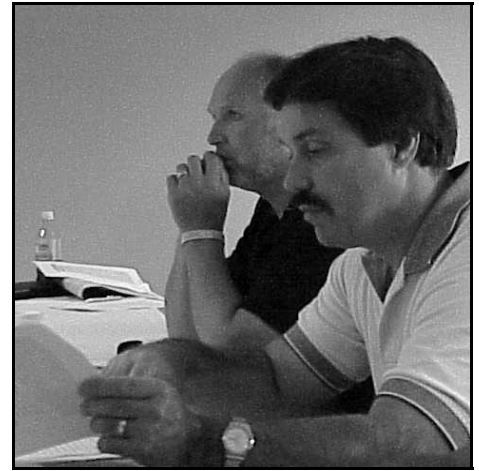
By the late 1960's, the position had changed and became more response oriented to events that were happening in the state such as campus rioting and strikes as opposed to purely planning for war. Wisconsin sheriffs and police chiefs realized that in very serious events whether it was a riot on campus, flooding or a state employee strike, they did not have enough resources to respond. The State of Wisconsin Emergency Operations Plan was updated to add procedures on mobilizing additional law enforcement resources in times of emergencies through the EPS Program.

As the EPS program changed, the coordinator position changed as well. The EPS coordinator was originally part of the Wisconsin Motor Vehicles Department and later moved to Emergency Government. The Governor-appointed administrator of the State Emergency Government Division was to serve also as EPS Director.

In addition, an EPS Deputy Director was created. The Deputy Director is a civil service position with a background in law enforcement. The EPS Deputy Director oversees the daily program activities and works closely with local law enforcement.

As part of the EPS program, the state was divided up into areas with a sheriff elected by fellow sheriffs and chiefs of police to serve as volunteer police services director for a specific area. That director then appoints a police chief and a sheriff to serve as alternate or deputy area directors. Today, the state has seven EPS areas and elections are held every four years. Recently, elections were held for EPS directors.

In the event of an emergency, the area director works with the State EPS Deputy Director in setting up a mutual aid response with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to provide requested resources. The initiating county sheriff maintains the authority over the situation and the response is to augment their forces with law enforcement officers from surrounding areas.



Rusk County Sheriff Dean Meyer and Ladysmith Police Chief Norm Rozak attended the EPS meeting in Hayward. Ladysmith received mutual aid assistance from 49 different law enforcement agencies following the September 2, 2002 tornado. Photo by Rick Risler

During the 1977 state employee strike, the EPS Deputy Director coordinated local law enforcement to provide support at various prisons and institutions. Over the years, the EPS deputy director has worked closely in developing emergency plans with local and state law



The Emergency Police Services Program also makes available the use of WEM's Mobile Command Center and a stand alone radio system including a portable tower and a generator trailer that augment the local law enforcement response capabilities.

-Providing support to law enforcement

enforcement to provide a response to assist Wisconsin Correctional Institutions in the event of riots, disturbances or other emergencies.

In recent years, the EPS program has provided support following major disasters. EPS mutual aid was used to coordinate additional officers to help provide traffic control and other assistance in Ladysmith for seven days following the F3 tornado in September 2002.

The EPS program also provided law enforcement mutual aid following the Siren tornado in 2001, the Weyauwega train derailment in 1996, and Spearfishing in the 1980's, using up to 1500 officers from all over the state for 5 to 8 weeks every spring.

In Weyauwega, more than 70 additional law enforcement officers were used on 12-hour shifts for 21 consecutive days to assist the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department in its law enforcement efforts. Waupaca County was reimbursed the expenses by the railroad responsible for the incident.

The requesting agency is responsible for the cost of the operation. However, in many cases the state and federal governments have reimbursed the local units of government through disaster declarations.

For more information on EPS, contact EPS Deputy Director Rick Risler at 608-444-0003.

Special thanks to Al Shanks and Rick Risler for their contributions to this article.



Emergency Police Services Deputy Director Rick Risler talks with former Burnett County Sheriff Tim Curtin and Burnett County Chief Deputy Don Taylor regarding additional law enforcement resources following the Siren Tornado in 2001.

Emergency Police Services Area Directors for 2003-2007

South Area EPS Region — (Columbia/Dane/Dodge/Grant/Green/Iowa/Jefferson/Lafayette/Richland/Rock/Sauk Counties)

Director: Lafayette Co. Sheriff Scott Pedley
Alternates: Waupun PD Chief Thomas Winscher
Rock Co. Sheriff Eric Runaas

Southeast Area EPS Region — (Kenosha/Milwaukee/Ozaukee/Racine/Walworth/Washington/Waukesha Counties)

Director: Walworth Co. Sheriff David Graves
Alternates: Oconomowoc PD Chief Hugh Martin
Kenosha Co. Sheriff David Beth

West Area EPS Region — (Adams/Buffalo/Crawford/Jackson/Juneau/LaCrosse/Monroe/Trempealeau/Vernon Counties)

Director: La Crosse Co. Sheriff Michael Weissenberger
Alternates: Tomah PD Chief Chris Anderson
Juneau Co. Sheriff Brent Oleson

West Central Area EPS Region — (Barron/Chippewa/Clark/Dunn/Eau Claire/Pepin/Pierce/Polk/St. Croix/Taylor Counties)

Director: St. Croix Co. Sheriff Dennis Hillstead
Alternates: Chippewa Falls PD Chief Gale Haas
Pierce Co. Sheriff Everett Muhlhausen

East Central Area EPS Region — (Brown/Calumet/Door/Fond du Lac/Green Lake/Kewaunee/Manitowoc/Marquette/Outagamie/Sheboygan/Waushara/Waupaca/Winnebago Counties)

Director: Brown Co. Sheriff Dennis Kocken
Alternates: Neshkoro PD Chief Pat Fox
Green Lake Co. Sheriff Mike Handel

Northeast Area EPS Region — (Florence/Forest/Langlade/Lincoln/Marathon/Marinette/Menominee/Oconto/Oneida/Portage/Shawano/Vilas/Wood Counties)

Director: Vilas Co. Sheriff John Niebuhr
Alternates: Marshfield PD Chief Joseph Stroik
Shawano Co. Sheriff Bob Schmidt

Northwest Area EPS Region — (Ashland/Bayfield/Burnett/Douglas/Iron/Price/Rusk/Sawyer/Washburn Counties)

Director: Rusk Co. Sheriff Dean Meyer
Alternates: Spooner PD Chief Steven Blaeser
Douglas Co. Sheriff Tom Dalbec

Search and rescue dogs: *The unsung heroes of 9-11*

Search and rescue dogs played a critical role following the attacks at the World Trade Center (WTC) and Pentagon and their contributions should not be forgotten. That was the message from Commander Scott Shields at the Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture in Oshkosh in July.

Shields is Director of Marine Safety, NYC Urban Park Service Search and Rescue. Shields and his search and rescue (SAR) canine, "Bear," an 11-year-old Golden Retriever were at his home in Connecticut when the planes hit the twin towers on September 11, 2001. They quickly drove to New York City in



"Bear"

38 minutes and they were the first dedicated search and rescue canine team at the WTC. Bear was the only SAR dog to find survivors. He was also

credited for finding the body of New York City Fire Chief Peter Ganci.

Dogs played a key role in locating victims following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. More than 350 canine teams helped with search and rescue efforts at the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The canine SAR teams were from various law enforcement, fire, and volunteer search and rescue groups from across the nation and even the world.

"Bear could find things, that we (humans) couldn't find," said Shields. "I'm proud of the job we did at the World Trade Center."

During the first night of searching at Ground Zero, Bear's back was injured by a jagged piece of metal. He was treated at a veterinary triage center on the site and he went right back to work. Shields and Bear worked the trade center ruins for two months. Months



Scott Shields and his new partner "Theodore" spoke at the Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture in Oshkosh. "Theodore" has search and rescue in his genes. He is the offspring of "Bear".

Continued on Page 7

Local search team tested at national exercise

By Geoff Gardiner
People and Paws Search and Rescue

A Milwaukee area search and rescue canine team tested their skills during the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's TOPOFF 2 exercise held in Chicago in May.

Members from People and Paws Search and Rescue participated in the national exercise. Bob Clarke, Lynn Gardiner and Brian Mitten played victims in the terrorist blast attack. Geoff Gardiner with his canine partner "Gretzky" searched for survivors amongst the rubble.

During the exercise, five people were placed amongst the rubble. It took emergency crews nearly five hours to discover and rescue the victims. To demonstrate the effectiveness of search dogs, the victims were placed back in

the pile of rubble. It took the three canine teams participating in the exercise less than 10 minutes to find those five victims.

The dogs and handlers searched among the fire department crews that were using saws and other equipment to remove debris. Despite the loud noises, smells and other distractions, the three dogs went about their jobs looking for victims and did not react to any of the commotion.

Members from People and Paws Search and Rescue say they were pleased to participate in TOPOFF 2 and show people how the dogs can save time and help direct resources.

For more information, contact People and Paws Search and Rescue at (414) 531-4098 or e-mail at info@peopleandpaws.org.



Geoff Gardiner and his canine partner "Gretzky" were one of three dog teams at the TOPOFF 2 exercise in Chicago.

Regional News

Speedy recoveries to **WEM Southwest Region Program Assistant Persis Shafer and Columbia County Emergency Management Director Tim Carlin**. Persis underwent an emergency appendectomy while on vacation. Tim continues his convalescence at the UW Hospital in Madison following a motorcycle accident.

Lynn Boening is the new **Emergency Management Director for Waushara County**. Congratulations!

Dodge County Emergency Management Director Molly Soblewski has taken the position as Dodge County Jail Administrator. Best wishes Molly!

Southeast Wisconsin Boy Scouts Council Executive Donald Van Winkle, recently presented **Racine County Emergency Management Director David Maack** an award for his work in



From the left Donald Van Winkle and David Maack.

helping the community "Be Prepared" through the training of local Boy Scouts in Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Earlier this year, the Boy Scouts of America announced it had joined with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to ensure the nation's youth are prepared for any situation.

Cregg Reuter has come on board as WEM's Exercise Training Officer.

Cregg worked at WEM several years ago and has been serving as a training officer for the Wisconsin Department of Justice. Welcome back to Wisconsin Emergency Management Cregg!



The Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater & Coastal Management will hold its annual conference November 13-14, 2003 at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. The conference provides an excellent training forum on the challenges facing surface water management. For more information contact Dan Cook at (414) 590-1500 ext. 90920 or e-mail at dan.cook@gasai.com.

Once again, **Milwaukee County Emergency Management had a booth at the Wisconsin State Fair** held July 31-August 10. The focus was homeland security. Helping staff the booth at the fair were volunteers from several southeast area emergency management offices, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department, National Weather Service, Wisconsin Emergency Management, American Red Cross and U.S. Coast Guard.



9-11 Rescue Dogs Continued from page 6

later, the area around this wound became cancerous. Sadly, he died from multiple cancers a year ago.

Bear received numerous accolades for his search and rescue efforts including honors from the U.S. and British Governments. When Bear died last fall, he was buried with honors as a New York City firefighter.

Shields is now taking his message on the road to bring attention to search and rescue (SAR) dogs. "Most search and rescue teams receive little or no pay for their efforts. Often, they pay out of their own pockets for training, travel and other expenses."

He has started a foundation in Bear's memory to help raise money for SAR teams to help provide free air transportation, advanced emergency management and SAR training and equipment.

The Bear Search and Rescue Foundation was created in 2002 to address the needs of both canine and non-canine search and rescue teams across the country. "The better trained the teams are the more effective they are when they are called on to work," said Shields.

The Bear Search and Rescue Foundation hopes to provide long-term health care of all search and rescue dogs in the nation. Bear's veterinary care following his search at the WTC was \$15,000. Many of the search and rescue dogs from 9-11 have been sick and a few, like Bear, have died. Shield's believes the toxic conditions at the site caused Bear's cancers.

Search and rescue teams interested in applying for grants or training from the Bear Search and Rescue Foundation or anyone interested in making a donation to the foundation should go to www.bearsearchandrescue.org or contact Scott Shields at safetyshields@hotmail.com.

Get ready for new classes/changes in WEM Training

By Jerry Habert
WEM Exercise & Training Program Supervisor

Classes focusing on response to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) will once again be a major focus of the 2004 Wisconsin Emergency Management training year.

Due to a partnership with the Office of Domestic Preparedness, Wisconsin will be hosting several WMD train-the-trainer classes. This format allows Wisconsin to have a cadre of trainers on a variety of terrorism related classes to be able to teach through the technical college system.

Wisconsin Emergency Management Hazardous Materials Training Officer Ron Kasperski is coordinating with the schools in the national consortium to provide training on a variety of terrorism related issues including Emergency Medical Service operations, crowd control and protester devices, CAMEO for Weapons of Mass Destruction, radiological and nuclear response training, crime scene management and evidence collection, tactical operations, and management level training for senior officials, to name a few.

Another change to note for FY2004 is that we will be using the state of the art

training facilities at Volk Field this year for many of these courses. This facility provides excellent lodging and classroom accommodations and has been under consideration by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Management Institute for use as a satellite campus. Students attending WEM training courses at Volk Field will be provided with lodging and meals during their stay.

More information including dates and locations will be available in the Wisconsin Emergency Management FY2004 training calendar scheduled for printing in September. Please watch for your calendar or contact your local emergency management program director to obtain a copy.

Further information on the Weapons of Mass Destruction courses that Wisconsin Emergency Management will be offering is available on the Office for Domestic Preparedness website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/coursecatalog.pdf>.

In addition, WEM will have its new training calendar posted on the WEM website at <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>. There will be a description of the classes offered and how to register. At this time we will not have electronic



Students participate in an exercise as part of the Milwaukee Community Emergency Response Team Train-the-Trainer course. The goal of Train-the Trainer courses is to develop of a cadre of instructors who can provide instruction on various courses throughout the state. Photo by Carl Stenbol

registration. You will still need to fill out a registration form and send it to your county emergency management director.

On behalf of the training section and the entire Division here at Wisconsin Emergency Management I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to review our training calendar, visit our website, and join us in better preparing our state to respond to acts of terrorism and other

Railroad track explosion tests responders

By Tanna McKeon
Green County Emergency Management

Green County Emergency Management, with assistance from the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad and the Juda Fire Department held a full-scale exercise on June 26 in the village of Juda.

The exercise scenario was that a bomb was placed on the railroad track, at a highway intersection, causing one of the train cars to derail and hit a bus full of school children. EMS crews had to set up a triage area to treat and transport the mass casualties. The "victims" were transported to the Monroe Clinic Hospital, where they tested their emergency plans too. The fire departments also had to deal with another

train car leaking gasoline and downed power lines. Juda Fire Chief Gary Davis was the incident commander.

Other local fire departments, EMS units and the Green County Sheriff's Department also provided personnel to take part in this valuable training. The Wisconsin and Southern Railroad provided hazardous material cleanup company take part in the exercise and officials with the U.S. Department of Transportation also observed the exercise.

The exercise was a culmination of months of preparation and planning, including a tabletop exercise held in May.



A rail car and a school bus were tipped over to use as props as part of the full-scale exercise held in Green County on June 26, 2003. Photo by Green County Emergency Management

Training citizens to be ready to help in a crisis

By Dana Gregory
WEM CERT Program Coordinator

Getting citizens prepared and trained to respond in the event of a disaster or emergency is the mission of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.



The CERT concept was initially developed and implemented by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. The LAFD recognized that citizens would likely be on their own during the early stages of a major disaster. The CERT program was devised to prepare citizens to respond to emergency situations in their communities until first responders were available.

CERT Training covers disaster preparedness, disaster

fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team operations, and is taught by trained firefighters, EMT's/paramedics, and emergency managers.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) adopted the program in 1993. Recently, FEMA has actively promoted the program and has made it available nationwide as part of the Citizen Corps Campaign. Over the next two years, the CERT program is looking to double the number of participants nationwide from 200,000 to 400,000.

Here in Wisconsin, WEM has been working with local communities in establishing CERT programs. Federal funding is available to help provide training and equipment.

Milwaukee County held the first CERT Train-the-Trainer class in Wisconsin this summer. Nearly 30 students took the class which now allows them to provide CERT training in their communities.

For more information about CERT Training, contact Dana Gregory at (608) 242-3212 or dana.gregory@dma.state.wi.us.



Racine County Emergency Management recently sponsored a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer course. The course covers basic first aid, search and rescue, and fire operations. Participants are taught how to care for their family and neighbors during an emergency.

Photo by David Maack

Class Openings in Baraboo

Sauk County has openings in the following courses to be held in Baraboo

**Emergency Response to Terrorism:
Incident Response to Terrorist
Bombings - Awareness Level
September 16, 2003 either 9:00 to
Noon or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Public Works: Preparing for &
Responding to Terrorism/WMD
Oct 28-30 2003**

Anyone interested in attending these classes should e-mail or call:

Corene Ederer-Sklar
Sauk County Emergency Management
(608) 355-4410
csklar@co.sauk.wi.us



Be Ready

Brown County Emergency Management billboards that encourage personal preparedness are now up. As mentioned in the last WEM Digest, a local advertising firm donated the space and artwork towards the campaign.

Photo by Cullen Peltier

WEMA ready to make changes and face challenges



*By Hal Swanstrom
WEMA President*

Fall will be a busy and exciting time for the Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA). The WEMA Board is considering several proposals to make the organization more efficient and meet the needs of emergency managers across the state.

WEMA is considering hiring a part-time program assistant to help with some of the clerical duties of the association. WEMA officers don't have the time or resources to adequately perform some of the clerical duties that are required. By hiring someone to provide assistance will help make WEMA more efficient and better able to respond to your needs.

To help raise needed revenue to meet WEMA's operational costs, the Board is considering selling space on its new website to vendors. The new website will have three display ads on the main home page and a links page that will link to various vendors.

In the last few years with the terrorism equipment grants, local emergency management offices have been swamped with suppliers trying to sell their emergency response equipment. By placing their information or links on the WEMA website for a cost, it would make it easy for the emergency manager or others to find information about the equipment or be directed to the company's website for further information. This will be of great value for both the vendor, the buyer and WEMA.

The board hopes to vote on these proposals at the next WEMA Board meeting.

WEMA will hold its annual conference/meeting October 9 in Stevens Point at the Best Western Royale. A new president and secretary will be elected as current

terms expire and regional representatives will be appointed.

As outgoing President, I recognize 2003 as a very challenging year with many projects competing for time, but it has also been a very rewarding year. Millions of dollars have been passed down to local response agencies to purchase needed equipment. This equipment provision has strengthened our local ability to respond to terrorism or other situations where a large response is required. Locally, we have new equipment, new planning initiatives, more exercising, more updating of program policies and more program interest.

I would like to commend Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Office of Justice Assistance for their work on the grant administration. I have heard an

occasional complaint, but the state management of these new grants is a tremendous challenge with time frames that are difficult and demanding. It is a lot of work. It's easy to criticize these programs and requirements but I realize the weight of the demands that have been placed at all levels of government to distribute millions of dollars of funding in a way that will get the money most efficiently and quickly to the responder.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our WEMA officers and members for their dedication to WEMA and to emergency management. I would encourage your participation in the coming year to continue to build WEMA. WEMA can help us provide tools to get the work done.



Ships Ahoy

Emergency management directors from the West Central Region toured the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dredge Thompson and took a ride to view dredging operations on the Mississippi River. Left to right back row: Dave Ress (Buffalo County), Brian Hitchcock (Dunn County), Kari Lammers (WC Office), Tammi Bechel (Dunn County), Keith Butler (La Crosse County), Jeanette Lenser (La Crosse County), Lois Ristow (WC Office)-top, Cindy Struve (Monroe County), John Elliott (Jackson County), Captain Bob, Lois Losby (American Red Cross, Scenic Valley Chapter) top, Jan Brom (Clark County), Gary Brown (Pierce County).



Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA)

Annual Meeting/Training Conference

October 9, 2003

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Conference Topics

National Guard Civil Support Teams

An overview of the National Guard's Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams and under what circumstances can these specialized units be activated and what can they do to assist in local emergency response efforts. Wisconsin and Minnesota National Guard officials and Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Ed Gleason will discuss the Civil Support Teams.

Local FBI Investigations

Officials with the FBI will discuss recent investigations in Wisconsin. Learn about local FBI cases involving threats to state rail traffic and military facilities. Information should prove valuable for updating local threat assessment documents.

WHERE & WHEN

Date: October 9, 2003

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
(register at the door 9:30 a.m.)

Where: Best Western Royale Inn
Junction of U.S. 51 and Hwy 10
Stevens Point, WI
(715) 341-5110

Who Should Attend: *Emergency Management Directors, Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire Services, Local Officials, Public Health and others.*

Group size is limited—register before the September 12 enrollment deadline.

Registration

Deadline September 12, 2003

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

**Conference
(Including Noon
Luncheon)**

\$10.00

**WEMA
Membership
(Optional)**

\$15.00

TOTAL: \$ _____

Send registration and make checks payable to:

**Lori Hucek
Kewaunee County Emergency Management
416 Fremont Street
Algoma, WI 54201
FAX: 920-487-2963**



Now which way?

As part of Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) in Racine County this summer, participants learned how to properly carry victims to safety. Photo by David Maack

2003 Upcoming Events to Make Wisconsin Better Prepared

**Oneida County Full-Scale Exercise
September 20, 2003**

**Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant
Full-Scale/Ingestion Exercise
September 23-24, 2003**

**Terrorism Full-Scale Exercise
Cross Plains
October 4, 2003**

**Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week
November 3-7, 2003**

**Wisconsin Emergency Management
PO Box 7865
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53707-7865**